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09/480,694	01/11/2000	Takayuki Sugiura	1083.1009-CD/JCG	4627
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STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			TRAN, DOUGLAS Q	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2624	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/480,694

Applicant(s)

SUGIURA ET AL.

Examiner

Douglas Q. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE on 1/23/04.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-9 and 21-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-9, 21-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination

1. The request filed on 01/23/04 for a Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114, based on the Application Serial No. 09/480,694. An action on the RCE follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 6-9 and 21-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Mandel (US Patent No. 5,435,544) and Arimoto et al. (US Patent No. 5,977,954).

As to claim 6, Mandel teaches:

a printing control method in a printing apparatus (i.e., a printer in fig. 18, col. 16, lines 20-22 shows a printer having a mailbox unit) which has a plurality of paper feed inlets and a plurality of paper discharge outlets (the printer "in figure 18" includes: 1) hoppers or drawers, which would be considered as paper feed inlets, are in the rectangle forms at the bottom of the printer in fig. 18. It would be understood that the hoppers for storing all designated sheets in order for all designated sheets are directed by the mailbox unit 10 to bin or bins "col. 21, lines 26-27", and the inputted sheets which are fed by the sheet feeding system to the bin selector

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system “col. 24, lines 31-35”; and 2) mailbox bins 11 from the mailbox unit 10 of the printer “in figure 9A” that would be representing of paper discharge outlets because they temporarily stores outputted papers or sheets from the printer in separate job sets “col. 16, lines 53-58” and the job set in each bin is ready for picking up by the user), establishes a plurality of operating relationships with a plurality of devices in parallel and prints using one of the plurality operating relationships in accordance with a print request from a plurality of devices (please see figure 18 indicates each the user name, which represent of each output device, is established in the relationship with each bin), (it is noted that the function of the printer for printing the print jobs “col. 20, lines 29-31” from external devices such as workstations, PC terminals, facsimile devices “col. 19, lines 39-43”), comprising:

establishing relevant operating relationships selected from the plurality of operating relationships with the print-requesting device;

(it is noted that the printer for establishing relevant operating relationships independently with the respective devices by:

1) accepting the different type of the print jobs from a plurality of different external devices such as workstations, PC terminals, facsimile devices “col. 19, lines 39-49”, and the printer allows the client to submit a printing job, including an Interpress TM or other such as paper size, number of copies, and device-specific information; and the printing protocol also allows the client to query the print service regarding the status of the job, for user notification “col. 19, lines 50-55”;

2) notifying the status of each print job to each user “col. 20, lines 31-35”;

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3) arranging each print job set from each user to individual bins for individual users “col. 16, lines 53-58; and please see the each user’s outputted job is located to each bin at the mailbox in fig. 18”; and

3) providing the information of each identified user with jobs and bin location to the display device at the mailbox unit “col. 16, lines 63-65; and col. 28, lines 58-62”);

specifying a type of the input paper and a paper discharge outlet for each of operating relationships, respectively, and storing specified paper feed inlets and paper discharge outlets in a table; and assigning a paper feed inlet and a paper discharge outlet for each of the established operating relationships based on the contents stored in the table (it is noted that: 1) the user from among of the host computers selects the type or size of paper and a printer adapts for processing the print job with the type or size of the paper “col. 20, lines 50-59 and col. 19, lines 25-27”, which represents of each type of the paper feed inlet; or 2) a paper discharge outlet would be considered as a mailbox bin as discussed above. Jobs is separated and stacked to each bin with its type of paper and each bin is assigned by the printer to each print job for a particular user “col. 16, lines 53-64, and col. 17, lines 1-3” and further displayed in relationship with the identified bin or bins and the user name or other identifier and the user’s job “col. 28, lines 57-62”. In summary, The printer would know a type of the paper feed inlet for the type of the user-assigned paper, which is attached on the attribute of the print job, and the assigned bin for that print job; and the printer would be controlled for processing and keeping track to the content of each of the print jobs. Therefore, the printer inherently comprises a component corresponding to a table or a memory for storing the relationship of each print job with the input and output trays).

Although Mandel teaches the desired sheet input of each print job of the user (col. 19, lines 25-27, 50-52 and col. 13, lines 42-50), Mandel does not teach a step of assigning a sheet input (or a paper feed inlet) to the relationship of each print job.

Arimoto, in the same field of endeavor, teaches a step of assigning a paper feed inlet at the printing apparatus (i.e., a copier “in fig. 1-A and 1-B” having a printer unit B for printing each document “col. 3, lines 45-48”) for each operating relationship (col. 6, lines 44-49 describes that the operating unit “in fig. 2” of the copier displays a plurality of cassette stages “i.e., paper feed cassettes 915 in fig. 1-B, col. 4, lines 44-45”, which would be representative of paper feed inlets because they stores different types or sizes of sheets that is fed for printing, includes the upper and lower cassette stages and each cassette stage for storing each size of papers. Therefore, one of cassette stages is assigned for each document image).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the step of assigning in Mandel to include a step of assigning the paper feed inlet (or the sheet input) for each operating relationship as taught by Arimoto. The suggestion for modifying the printer of Mandel can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Arimoto because the modified printer of Mandel would increase the efficiency for controlling the paper feed inlets by assigning one of the paper feed inlets for the desired paper of each print job sent from each user.

As to claim 7, Mandel and Arimoto disclose every feature discussed in claim 6, and Mandel further teaches that a paper discharge outlet is specified for each operating relationship, so that the same paper discharge outlet is not assigned in a plurality of operating relationships (in

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fig. 8 and col. 16, lines 20-22 show the print job set of each user name is distributed to each bin location. Therefore, the same bin is not assigned in a plurality of operating relationships).

As to claim 8, Mandel and Arimoto disclose every feature discussed in claim 6 including the teaching of Mandel that the type of paper and a paper discharge outlet for each operation relationship; and the teaching of Arimoto that the paper feed inlet (or the paper feed cassette 915 in fig. 1-B and col. 4, lines 54-55) is assigned by a panel operation (col. 6, lines 44-49 describes that the operating unit "in fig. 2" of the copier "in fig. 1-A and 1-B" displays a plurality of cassette stages "915 in fig. 1-B, col. 4, lines 44-45" includes the upper and lower cassette stages for selection).

However, neither Mandel nor Arimoto teach a paper discharge outlet is assigned by a panel operation.

Mandel teaches the system administrator for controlling the printing at the printer user interface (the printer U.I. or the printer panel 104 in fig. 1; and col. 33, lines 21-27) and further teaches the well known prior art that the Genicon system allows the administrator to assign bins (col. 10, lines 38-39). Thus, the paper discharge outlet (or the bin) assigned by a panel operation that would be well known.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the panel operation of Mandel and Arimoto for assigning the paper discharge outlet (or the bin) as the well known prior art. The suggestion for modifying the printing system of Mandel and Arimoto can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by the well known prior art because the modified printer of Mandel would increase the efficiency for allowing the system administrator at the printer to control printing operation

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through the panel by assigning each bin to a print job of each user. In the resultant system, the system administrator would easily keep track the print job of each user at the operation panel of the printer.

As to claim 9, Mandel and Arimoto disclose every feature discussed in claim 6, and Mandel further teaches that the states of the operating relationships are displays in a list (col. 28, lines 57-62 describes that the display means or panel "104 in fig. 1 or the mailbox user interface liquid crystal LCD" displays the states of the operating relationships in the a list by showing all the various customer names and bin locations which currently have jobs in the mailbox unit).

As to claim 21, Mandel teaches a printing control method in an apparatus (i.e., a printer in fig. 18, col. 16, lines 20-22 shows a printer having a mailbox unit) which has feed inlets and discharge outlets (the printer "in figure 18" includes: 1) hoppers or drawers, which would be considered as paper feed inlets, are in the rectangle forms at the bottom of the printer in fig. 18. It would be understood that the hoppers for storing all designated sheets which is directed by the mailbox unit 10 to bin or bins "col. 21, lines 26-27", and the inputted sheets which is fed by the sheet feeding system to the bin selector system "col. 24, lines 31-35"; and 2) mailbox bins 11 from the mailbox unit 10 of the printer "in figure 9A" that would be representing of paper discharge outlets because they temporarily stores outputted papers or sheets from the printer in separate job sets "col. 16, lines 53-58" and the job set in each bin is ready for picking up by the user), and prints in accordance with a print request from a plurality of devices (it is noted that the function of the printer for printing the print jobs "col. 20, lines 29-31" from external devices such as workstations, PC terminals, facsimile devices "col. 19, lines 39-43"), comprising:

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establishing more than one operating relationship with a plurality of devices in parallel, wherein each relationship is established independently with each of the respective devices

(it is noted that the printer for establishing relevant operating relationships independently with the respective devices by:

1) accepting the different type of the print jobs from a plurality of different external devices such as workstations, PC terminals, facsimile devices “col. 19, lines 39-49”, and the printer allows the client to submit a printing job, including an Interpress TM or other such as paper size, number of copies, and device-specific information; and the printing protocol also allows the client to query the print service regarding the status of the job, for user notification “col. 19, lines 50-55”;

2) notifying the status of each print job to each user “col. 20, lines 31-35”;

3) arranging each print job set from each user to individual bins for individual users “col. 16, lines 53-58; col. 4, lines 27-33 and please see the each user’s outputted job is located to each bin at the mailbox in fig. 18”; and

3) providing the information of each identified user with jobs and bin location to the display device at the mailbox unit “col. 16, lines 63-65; and col. 28, lines 58-62”);

assigning the type of paper and a discharge outlet specified in advance for each operating relationship (it is noted that: 1) the user from among of the host computers selects the type or size of paper and a printer adapts for processing the print job with the type or size of the paper “col. 20, lines 50-59 and col. 19, lines 25-27”, which represents of each type of the paper feed inlet; or 2) a paper discharge outlet would be considered as a mailbox bin as discussed above. Jobs is separated and stacked to each bin with its type of paper and each bin is assigned by the

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printer to each print job for a particular user “col. 16, lines 53-64, and col. 17, lines 1-3” and further displayed in relationship with the identified bin or bins and the user name or other identifier and the user’s job “col. 28, lines 57-62”. In summary, The printer would know a type of the paper feed inlet for the type of the user-assigned paper, which is attached on the attribute of the print job, and the assigned bin for that print job; and the printer would be controlled for processing and keeping track to the content of each of the print jobs. Therefore, the printer inherently comprises a component corresponding to a table or a memory for storing the relationship of the input and output trays in advance).

Although Mandel teaches the desired sheet input or each print job or the user (col. 19, lines 25-27, 50-52 and col. 13, lines 42-50), Mandel does not teach a step of assigning a sheet input (or a paper feed inlet) at the printer for each operating relationship.

Arimoto, in the same field of endeavor, teaches a step of assigning a paper feed inlet at the copier (i.e., a copier “in fig. 1-A and 1-B” having a printer unit B for printing each document “col. 3, lines 45-48”) for each operating relationship (col. 6, lines 44-49 describes that the operating unit “in fig. 2” of the copier displays a plurality of cassette stages “i.e., paper feed cassettes 915 in fig. 1-B, col. 4, lines 44-45”, which would be representative of paper feed inlets because they stores different types or sizes of sheets that is fed for printing, includes the upper and lower cassette stages and each cassette stage for storing each size of papers. Therefore, one of cassette stages is assigned for each document image).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the step of assigning in Mandel to include a step of assigning the paper feed inlet (or the sheet input) for each operating relationship as taught by Arimoto. The

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suggestion for modifying the printer of Mandel can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by Arimoto because the modified printer of Mandel would increase the efficiency for controlling the paper feed inlets by assigning one of the paper feed inlets for the desired paper of each print job sent from each user.

As to claim 22, Mandel and Arimoto disclose every feature discussed in claim 21, and Mandel further teaches that a paper discharge outlet is specified for each operating relationship, so that the same paper discharge outlet is not assigned in a plurality of operating relationships (in fig. 8 and col. 16, lines 20-22 show the print job set of each user name is distributed to each bin location. Therefore, the same bin is not assigned in a plurality of operating relationships).

As to claim 23, Mandel and Arimoto disclose every feature discussed in claim 21 including the teaching of Mandel that the type of paper and a paper discharge outlet for each operation relationship; and the teaching of Arimoto that the feed inlet (or the paper feed cassette 915 in fig. 1-B and col. 4, lines 54-55) is assigned by a panel operation (col. 6, lines 44-49 describes that the operating unit "in fig. 2" of the copier "in fig. 1-A and 1-B" displays a plurality of cassette stages "915 in fig. 1-B, col. 4, lines 44-45" includes the upper and lower cassette stages for selection).

However, neither Mandel nor Arimoto teach a relationship is assigned by a panel operation.

Mandel teaches the system administrator for controlling the printing at the printer user interface (the printer U.I. or the printer panel 104 in fig. 1 and col. 33, lines 21-27) and further teaches the well known prior art that the Genicon system allows the administrator to assign bins

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(col. 10, lines 38-39). Thus, the discharge outlet (or the bin) assigned by a panel operation that would be well known.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the panel operation of Mandel and Arimoto for assigning the paper discharge outlet (or the bin) as the well known prior art. The suggestion for modifying the printing system of Mandel and Arimoto can be reasoned by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth above by the well known prior art because the modified printer of Mandel would increase the efficiency for allowing the system administrator at the printer to control printing operation through the control panel by assigning each bin to a print job of each user. In the resultant system, the system administrator would easily keep track the print job of each user at the operation panel of the printer.

As to claim 24, Mandel and Arimoto disclose every feature discussed in claim 21, and Mandel further teaches of displaying the states of the operating relationships in a list (col. 28, lines 57-62 describes that the display means or panel "104 in fig. 1 or the mailbox user interface liquid crystal LCD" displays the states of the operating relationships in the a list by showing all the various customer names and bin locations which currently have jobs in the mailbox unit).

As to claim 25, Mandel and Arimoto disclose every feature discussed in claim 6, and Mandel further teaches each of the operating relationships is a logical printer (it is noted that: 1) the user from among of the host computers selects the type or size of paper and a printer adapts for processing the print job with the type or size of the paper "col. 20, lines 50-59 and col. 19, lines 25-27", which represents of each type of the paper feed inlet; or 2) a paper discharge outlet would be considered as a mailbox bin as discussed above. Jobs is separated and stacked to each

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bin with its type of paper and each bin is assigned by the printer to each print job for a particular user “col. 16, lines 53-64, and col. 17, lines 1-3” and further displayed in relationship with the identified bin or bins and the user name or other identifier and the user’s job “col. 28, lines 57-62”. In summary, The printer would know a type of the paper feed inlet for the type of the user-assigned paper, which is attached on the attribute of the print job, and the assigned bin for that print job; and the printer would be controlled for processing and keeping track to the content of each of the print jobs. Therefore, the printer inherently comprises a component corresponding to a table or a logical printer for storing the relationship of each print job with the input and output trays).

As to claim 26, Mandel teaches a printing apparatus (a printer in fig. 18), comprising:

feed inlets and discharge inlets (i.e., a printer in fig. 18, col. 16, lines 20-22 shows a printer having a mailbox unit and the printer “in figure 18” includes: 1) hoppers or drawers, which would be considered as paper feed inlets, are in the rectangle forms at the bottom of the printer in fig. 18);

a printer engine to print on a sheet of paper (please see fig. 1) ; and

a printer controller (100 in fig. 1) to establish more than one operating relationship with a plurality of devices in parallel, wherein each operating relationship is established independently with each of the respective devices, and to print in accordance with a print request from the plurality of devices by using a feed inlet and a discharge outlet specified in advance for each operating relationship

(Note 1: the printer for establishing relevant operating relationships independently with the respective devices by:

1) accepting the different type of the print jobs from a plurality of different external devices such as workstations, PC terminals, facsimile devices “col. 19, lines 39-49”, and the printer allows the client to submit a printing job, including an Interpress TM or other such as paper size, number of copies, and device-specific information; and the printing protocol also allows the client to query the print service regarding the status of the job, for user notification “col. 19, lines 50-55”;

2) notifying the status of each print job to each user “col. 20, lines 31-35”;

3) arranging each print job set from each user to individual bins for individual users “col. 16, lines 53-58; and please see the each user’s outputted job is located to each bin at the mailbox in fig. 18”; and

3) providing the information of each identified user with jobs and bin location to the display device at the mailbox unit “col. 16, lines 63-65; and col. 28, lines 58-62”; and

Note 2: 1) the user from among of the host computers selects the type or size of paper and a printer adapts for processing the print job with the type or size of the paper “col. 20, lines 50-59 and col. 19, lines 25-27”, which represents of each type of the paper feed inlet; or 2) a paper discharge outlet would be considered as a mailbox bin as discussed above. Jobs is separated and stacked to each bin with its type of paper and each bin is assigned by the printer to each print job for a particular user “col. 16, lines 53-64, and col. 17, lines 1-3” and further displayed in relationship with the identified bin or bins and the user name or other identifier and the user’s job “col. 28, lines 57-62”. In summary, The printer would know a type of the paper feed inlet for the type of the user-assigned paper, which is attached on the attribute of the print job, and the assigned bin for that print job; and the printer would be controlled for processing and keeping

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track to the content of each of the print jobs. Therefore, the printer inherently comprises a component corresponding to a table or a memory for storing the relationship of each print job with the input and output trays).

Response to Arguments and Amendment

Applicant's arguments filed 01/23/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argued that none of the prior art teaches or suggests to the limitations of claims 6 and 21. In reply, Mandel teaches: establishing relevant operating relationships selected from the plurality of operating relationships with the print requesting device;

(it is noted that the printer for establishing relevant operating relationships independently with the respective devices by 1) accepting the different type of the print jobs from a plurality of different external devices such as workstations, PC terminals, facsimile devices “col. 19, lines 39-49”, and the printer allows the client to submit a printing job, including an Interpress TM or other such as paper size, number of copies, and device-specific information; and the printing protocol also allows the client to query the print service regarding the status of the job, for user notification “col. 19, lines 50-55”; 2) notifying the status of each print job to each user “col. 20, lines 31-35”; 3) arranging each print job set from each user to individual bins for individual users “col. 16, lines 53-58; and please see the each user’s outputted job is located to each bin at the mailbox in fig. 18”; and 3) providing the information of each identified user with jobs and bin location to the display device at the mailbox unit “col. 16, lines 63-65; and col. 28, lines 58-62”);

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specifying a type of the input paper and a paper discharge outlet for each of operating relationships, respectively, and storing specified paper feed inlets and paper discharge outlets in a table; and assigning a paper feed inlet and a paper discharge outlet for each of the established operating relationships based on the contents stored in the table (it is noted that: 1) the user from among of the host computers selects the type or size of paper and a printer adapts for processing the print job with the type or size of the paper “col. 20, lines 50-59 and col. 19, lines 25-27”, which represents of each type of the paper feed inlet; or 2) a paper discharge outlet would be considered as a mailbox bin as discussed above. Jobs is separated and stacked to each bin with its type of paper and each bin is assigned by the printer to each print job for a particular user “col. 16, lines 53-64, and col. 17, lines 1-3” and further displayed in relationship with the identified bin or bins and the user name or other identifier and the user’s job “col. 28, lines 57-62”. In summary, The printer would know a type of the paper feed inlet for the type of the user-assigned paper, which is attached on the attribute of the print job, and the assigned bin for that print job; and the printer would be controlled for processing and keeping track to the content of each of the print jobs. Therefore, the printer inherently comprises a component corresponding to a table or a memory for storing the relationship of each print job with the input and output trays).

Although Mandel teaches the desired sheet input of each print job of the user (col. 19, lines 25-27, 50-52 and col. 13, lines 42-50), Mandel does not teach a step of assigning a sheet input (or a paper feed inlet) to the relationship of each print job.

Arimoto, in the same field of endeavor, teaches a step of assigning a paper feed inlet at the printing apparatus (i.e., a copier “in fig. 1-A and 1-B” having a printer unit B for printing each document “col. 3, lines 45-48”) for each operating relationship (col. 6, lines 44-49 describes

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that the operating unit "in fig. 2" of the copier displays a plurality of cassette stages "i.e., paper feed cassettes 915 in fig. 1-B, col. 4, lines 44-45", which would be representative of paper feed inlets because they stores different types or sizes of sheets that is fed for printing, includes the upper and lower cassette stages and each cassette stage for storing each size of papers. Therefore, one of cassette stages is assigned for each document image).

For the above reasons, it is believed that the cited prior art fully discloses the claimed invention and the rejection stand.

Conclusion

The examiner has reviewed the limitations of previous claims 6-9, 21-26 in **the RCE** filed by applicant on 01/23/04. However, Applicant's CPA have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. **This action is made non-final.**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4857 or E-mail address is Douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Douglas Q. Tran
Feb. 20, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tran Douglas", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.